



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Reply to  
Attn of: WD-134

APR 20 1993

G.S. Hurless, Manager  
Cyprus Thompson Creek Mine  
P.O. Box 62  
Clayton, Idaho 83227

Re: Cyprus Thompson Creek NPDES Permit Application

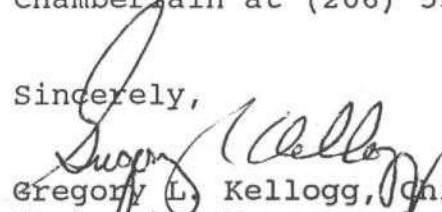
Dear Mr. Hurless:

This concerns your March 24, 1993, letter requesting expedited NPDES permit issuance for the Thompson Creek mine. It is our understanding that you are requesting issuance of an NPDES permit by the beginning of May, 1993, because of a need to discharge excess runoff/infiltration water from the tailings impoundment.

We understand the difficulties you are experiencing maintaining the water level in the impoundment system. However, because we have not yet completed the revision process including the public notice comment period, it is unlikely that our office can accommodate your proposed schedule to issue a NPDES permit for this potential discharge by May, 1993. Although we cannot offer you a permit for this runoff season, we believe that we have some discretion in dealing with discharges in cases where it can be shown that the applicant took all steps necessary to prevent a discharge.

If you find that you must discharge, we suggest you make every effort, including the use of additional storage to insure that all precautionary measures are taken to minimize the volume of any discharge to Bruno Creek, while protecting the integrity of your tailings impoundment. If you have any further questions, contact William Chamberlain at (206) 553-8515.

Sincerely,

  
Gregory L. Kellogg, Chief  
Wastewater Management and  
Enforcement Branch